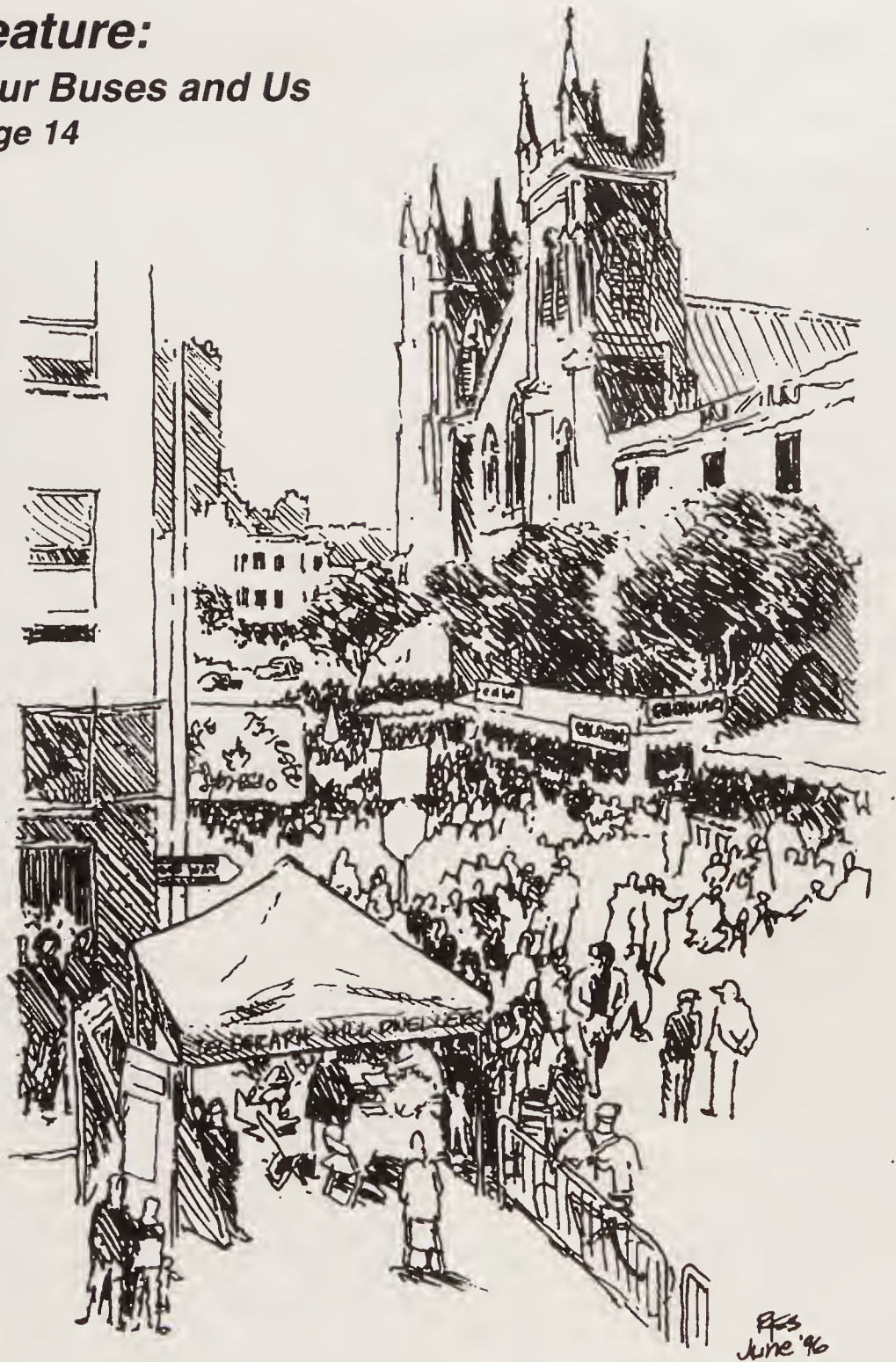


The Semaphore

Fall 1996

Issue 137

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Tour Buses and Us
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Update
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Printed on recycled paper.

COVER: by Rod Freebairn-Smith.

The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without permission in writing.

Editorial

by Patricia Cady

We are fortunate. Artists have been generous to *The Semaphore*. Rod Freebairn-Smith brought his sketch pad to the North Beach Festival and created a cover showing a bird's-eye view of THD's booth — a smart new booth, thanks to Howard Wong, Dawne Bernhardt, Julie Christensen, Sara Gregory, Maud Hallin, and the helpers they recruited to assemble and strike it.

At right center is the calamari stand whose penetrating fragrance galvanized chilly booth volunteers and would have tempted St. Francis

of Assisi himself; his church shines in the background and provided a partial proscenium for a number of excellent musicians hand-picked by Marsha Garland who pulls this big event together every year. She has earned the grateful respect of local merchants and associations, like ours, who benefit from her good work.

The Semaphore occasionally receives articles which deserve attention, but are too long to publish. Instead, we try to summarize the material and direct readers to the

authors who will provide complete manuscripts upon request. We vigorously welcome submissions with the understanding that they may be edited.

Acknowledgement

The article "Pioneer Park — A Partial Chronology" which appeared in the last *Semaphore* failed to credit David Myrick, whose research and writing on Telegraph Hill provides not only a primary resource for the rest of us, but constant inspiration. Thank you, David.

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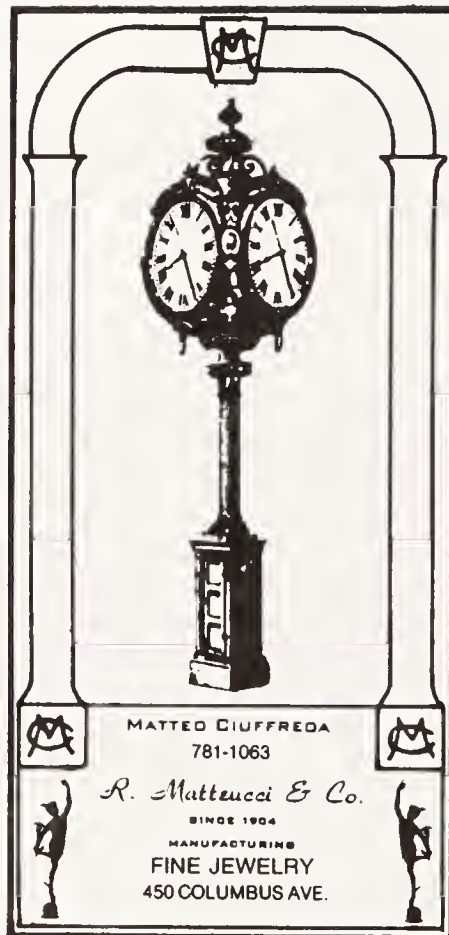
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What do you do after you plant 400 trees, or thereabouts?

Back in 1994, to celebrate our 40th anniversary, we decided to "Green the Hill" by planting 400 trees on it. Two years later, through the energetic and highly competent leadership of Julie Christensen and her "right arm" Christopher Wand and hosts of others, that ambition has been largely secured through Friends of the Urban Forest, coupled with their expertise and volunteers.

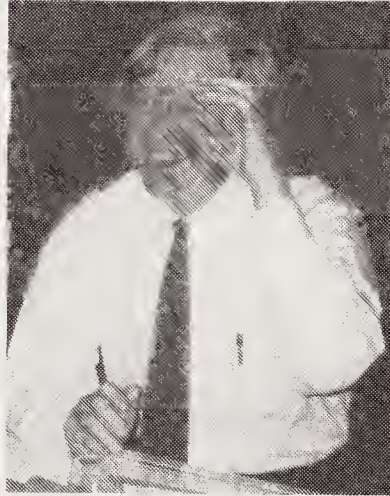


Photo by Rod Freebairn-Smith

President's Letter

From Joe Luttrell

When we celebrate our 50th anniversary in the next century, I am confident this Greening will be looked back upon as one of the activities we are most proud of — and the trees will be there to prove it.

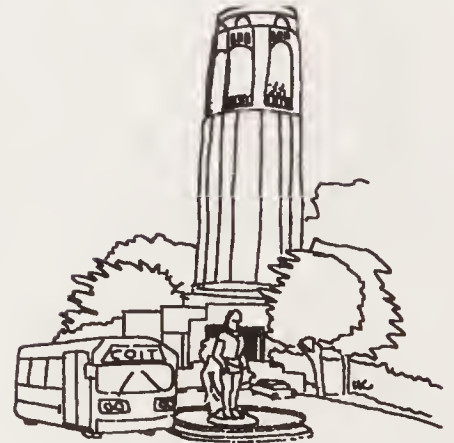
But the 64-dollar question right now is, how do we follow up on this first-rate effort? What can we do to continue the momentum the 400 Trees project has given us?

First, some of the trees need our help! Most are the responsibility of those in front of whose homes they have been planted, but some are on public land, and these we have agreed to water and maintain through their first two to three years, while their roots become sufficiently established to do the job. This means weekly "watering parties" on Saturday (or even other days). Can you lend a hand? If so, call me (at 255-6799) or Julie Christensen (at 552-7774).

Second, tree planting and like activities have been proven to be — perhaps unexpectedly — considerably enjoyable to most of us. We now have a sturdy band who, once a month, may be seen somewhere on the Hill rooting, digging, and generally trying to improve some spot needing a little physical attention. This Saturday morning effort is followed by a pot-luck lunch. Want to join us? A call from you is all we need. Or do you have a location you think ought to be on our list? Please let us know!

Third, and perhaps most ambitiously, is the Pioneer Park Project. The park, surrounding and including Coit Tower, needs work, and lots of it. So far, we have obtained over \$250,000 to be used to that end, but significantly more is required.

In the meanwhile, design work is well underway, but your input is needed and wanted. Private fundraising, being undertaken by the nascent Telegraph Hill Fund of the San Francisco Foundation, will be crucial. And there should be plenty of opportunity for expending just plain volunteer sweat at the park and tower. But the result promises to be the resetting of the nationally-recognized landmark and jewel. Care to get involved? Just call!



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THD Board Resolutions

April 9, 1996

The Board approved the re-appointment of all presently serving the committee chairs; also that Arthur Chang serve as the chair of a new committee: H.A.L.O. (History, Arts, Landmarks and Organizations). Arthur Chang and Billie Atlas were appointed to the Executive Committee, serving with President Joe Luttrell, Vice President Gerry Crowley and Treasurer Maud Hallin. Christopher Wand was nominated for The Lowell Award, presented annually by Friends of the Urban Forest.

May 14, 1996

The Board approved the following allocation: \$350 to the Membership Committee to fund a campaign to recruit new members; \$300

to purchase materials for a new booth to be used at the North Beach Festival and other THD events; a \$50 contribution to San Francisco Beautiful. The Board voted support of Tel-Hi's grant application to the Friends of Recreation and Park requesting \$1,000 toward its youth programs, and went on record as opposing DPT's proposed plan to convert some public parking in the North Beach area from public use to tour bus use.

June 11, 1996

The Board considered a letter describing potential adverse effects to the Grace Marchant Gardens, and their vicinity, if proposed development of 22-30 Alta Street takes place, even though the development conforms to the guidelines of the

proposed Special Use District. The Board resolved: "Having discussed the amendment to the proposed Special Use District prepared by the 10-15 property owners in the vicinity of a proposed development at 22-30 Alta, the Board of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers is sympathetic to the special case described in the letter."

July 9, 1996

The Board approved the 1996-97 budget submitted by Treasurer Maud Hallin. The Board agreed to support the City's Hazardous Waste Management Program by providing a set of membership mailing labels for the one-time-only use of publicizing the program's August 4 drop-off day.

Social News

by Kellin Defiel and Ken Scudder

By the time you read this you may already know (or are learning too late) that the date of the All San Francisco Concert at Davies Hall is Thursday, September 5, instead of the previously announced date of September 8.

THD's June 23 cocktail party at Sophie's Cookhouse featured great California-with-a-Mexican-twist style food, and a special appearance by charming 3-year-old Sophie herself, daughter of owners Deborah and Paul Hodges. Thanks to everyone who planned to menu and served us well. The next event, a party, is planned for Monday, September 25.

You will receive a postcard invitation specifying the place and time.

The annual THD Picnic at Pioneer Park will not take place this year because we do not want to disturb the restoration process (see Howard Wong's update on the Pioneer Park Project in this issue). We regret that this popular event is canceled this year, but we hope members agree that the decision is in the best interest of our beautiful park.

Who has flair, and a gift for planning events? The Social Committee is seeking a new chairperson, or co-chairs. Interested? You can count on us and others to provide all the information and training necessary to support you, and help ensure your success coordinating projects that are fun and socially rewarding. Call Kellin at 397-8821.

Home Again

Maud Hallin returned from France with a copy of another neighborhood association's *Semaphore* — in this case, a newsletter subtitled *La Lettre Du Vieux Telegraph Et Du Domaine La Roquette*, picturing a weary traveler approaching a mechanical semaphore fastened to the ruins of a medieval tower.

Steve Hord returned from Argentina with a newspaper clipping from the *Buenos Aires Herald* titled "They Were Ready for the Worst," describing his and two friends' adventures driving a Toyota pickup from San Francisco to Ushuaia — the southernmost city in South America.

Membership Report

by June Fraps

We're moving along in our efforts to recruit more members for THD. By the time you read this, a new membership folder will be off the press and in local cafés and stores, thanks to Dana Chisnell and Rozell Overmire. If you'd like a supply to distribute to your neighbors or know a friendly merchant who'll let us leave some on his counter, call June Fraps at 392-1187.

Note the tear-out membership application on page 22. Pass it along to a friend or neighbor, or treat someone to the gift of a year's membership in THD.

Many thanks to the hardy souls who braved the freezing wind to recruit new members at the North Beach Festival in June: Billie Atlas, who phoned and organized and phoned again; Gerry Crowley, Jim Valenti, Jarilyn Cerruti, Stewart Bloom, Dana Chisnell, Daranne Schott, Kathy Blum, Pat Cady, Hope & Richard Weissman, Arthur Chang, Lynn & Randall Van Duinen, Norma & Art Peterson, Lori Viti, Nancy Lenvin, Clyde Steiner and Diane Howell. Thanks, too, to Howard Wong who supplied the Coit Tower cutout that was a major attraction.

A warm welcome to the members who've joined THD since the last *Semaphore* went to press: James Attwood, Carolyn Baulsler, Dr. Steven J. Brattesani, Anne Buchanan, Kathy Denker, Karen DeLeo, Andrea Elchhorn, Paul

Franson, James Funsten, Amy Geoffroy & Marc Rothberg, Dean Guadagni, Jan & Maurice Holloway, Thomas Kernan, Steve Levinson, Bruce McEachern, Leo McLaughlin, Steve Menicucci, Jean Mullis, Lauren Nemroff, Terrence O'Flaherty, Paul Pierson, Hilary Rand, Doug & Suzanne Sands, Nicole & Tim Savageaux, Martha Schmidt, Michael Tersigni, Paul & Jacquie Walker, and Marsha Zakheim.

This may be your last *Semaphore*

If the mailing label on this *Semaphore* is dated 6/1/96 or earlier, your membership has lapsed, and we hope you'll rectify that situation with a check. If you think our records are incorrect or you are in doubt about your membership status, please call June Fraps at 392-1187, or drop a note to THD, Membership, PO Box 330159, San Francisco, CA 94133. We want to keep you with us!

N.E.R.T. Training Starts Sept. 9

by June Fraps

Loma Prieta, Northridge and Kobe earthquakes were wake up calls — potent reminders to get ready for the "Big One". It's easy to put preparation off, and to hope that "they" will cope with disaster. But when disaster strikes, "they" may very well be unable to get to you for some time, and you will have to cope on your own.

Learn how! The San Francisco Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (N.E.R.T.) training will help you become self-sufficient when you need to be. A N.E.R.T. class for North Beach, Telegraph Hill and Russian Hill residents starts Monday, September 9 at 6:30 PM at the Upper Fort Mason Headquarters Building. Call 558-3456 to sign up for the five 2-hour sessions.

Use the internet to get details about the N.E.R.T. program and to tap into other earthquake related information:

<http://www.slip.net/~nertsffd/>.

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Planning & Zoning Committee Report

by Richard Marshall, co-chair

An unusually large number of THD members (now 25) expressed interest in this committee in 1996. This is encouraging since THD, through this expanded committee, can increase its effectiveness in dealing with issues of increasing variety, complexity, of often controversial nature, that are on the horizon.

Meetings have been held April 3, May 2, June 5, and August 8. Meeting dates, times and locations vary but are usually held on Thursdays at 7:00 PM at 122 Alta St. Notices to active members will continue to be mailed.

Following is a list of ongoing issues. We hope all interested THD members share their thoughts with us:

Telegraph Hill Scenic Special Use District Zoning Ordinance

(A proposed ordinance unanimously approved by the THD Board, endorsed overwhelmingly by mail vote of the membership and presented to the SF Board of Supervisors.)

Bob Tibbits is actively pursuing this through the Board of Supervisors. He will provide progress reports.

This THD committee recommends as a policy matter that the provisions of the Ordinance be encouraged in proposed building projects prior to formal approval.

Developments Proposed on the Cliffs above Sansome Street between Vallejo and Filbert

A residential development has been proposed on lower Alta Street that will cast shadows on the Filbert Street's Marchant Gardens with pos-

sible adverse effects on the vegetation that now flourishes.

The major residential development between Sansome and Calhoun Streets has been delayed but action may soon resume.

All proposed developments are actively followed by this committee and communication is ongoing between THD and other neighborhood special interest groups relative to the cliffside projects.

Dalla Torre Restaurant Expansion

The venerable Shadows Restaurant has now become Dalla Torre. The Shadows was permitted in this residential zone as a non-conforming use and by recent recorded agreement with THD. The new Dalla Torre has doubled the Shadows dining capacity notwithstanding the objections of some nearby residents. It now proposes to expand again by using part of the adjacent Filbert Street

City-owned land for an outdoor smoking and bar extension, an issue being considered by this committee.

Remodeling

A continuing stream of remodeling projects has been the normal condition in the area. In a previous *Semaphore* article, co-chair Jim Valenti described a practice where the completed "re-models" became very different projects than those initially presented to neighbors. Many projects increased in height and bulk without the adjacent neighbors' knowledge, to their surprise and dismay. Also, the overworked Planning and Building Departments have, on occasion, failed to inform neighbors in a timely way of proposed remodels. This committee is considering means of assisting in curbing gross code violations in our area and welcomes your comments and information on pending projects.

Hill Crime Statistics

by Pat Lorentzen

For the MAY-JULY Period

| TYPE: | 1995 | 1996 | % CHANGE |
|----------|------|------|----------|
| Homocide | 0 | 0 | |
| Rape | 0 | 1 | |
| Robbery | 15 | 10 | |
| Assault | 21 | 27 | |
| Burglary | 29 | 23 | |
| Theft | 116 | 121 | |
| Auto | 57 | 52 | |
| Other | 186 | 150 | |
| TOTAL | 424 | 384 | -9.4% |



Poll Workers Needed

THDers interested in working at the polls for the Nov. 5 presidential election are urged to contact the Dept. of Elections at 633 Folsom, Rm. 107.

Available positions include Clerk and Inspector with compensation set at \$62 and \$79 per day respectively. Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, a resident of San Francisco, and at least 18 years old at the time of election may apply.

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So Many Nice People

by Dawne Bernhardt

Have you noticed that our neighborhood is sporting hundreds of new trees, that more blossoms and greenery are appearing in front of dwellings, and that gardens are emerging on small parcels of land?

Lots of credit for the greening for the Hill goes to the 400 Trees Project volunteers. N.I.C.E.'s award for People Who Make a Difference, which is granted in recognition of extraordinary efforts, was presented at the THD August meeting to project leaders Julie Christensen, Joe Butler and Christopher Wand.

To say thanks to so many other nice people whose gardening efforts around their homes can be appreciated by all who pass, the Neighborhood Improvement, Conservation and Enhancement Committee has created another form of recognition,

The Green Thumb Honor Roll

Names will appear in *The Semaphore* and certificates presented reading "For the Love of... Gardening."

Readers are invited to nominate possible recipients in the following categories:

- Blooming Sidewalks
- Flowering Facades
- Blossoms in Boxes
- Shapely Shrubs or Vines
- Bountiful Gardens

Nominations must be received October 30. Send c/o THD, Box 330159, SF 94133; Attention: Green Thumb Honor Roll.

Nice people continue to make the 1st Saturday Stair and Garden Work Parties productive and fun. August marked the 9th party. The Francisco Stair Gardens were planted and pruned. Special thanks go to organizer and prodigious volunteer Joe Butler and the intrepid Jack Early. To get involved in these 1st

Saturday efforts or in the Weekly Watering and Tree Maintenance on the upper Greenwich and Filbert Stairs, call Sara Gregory at 391-9919.

Thanks also go to watering wizard Tom Caputo and N.I.C.E. Committee members Susan Calendar for logging in the most outings, and Joan Wood, a close second. The next Clean-Sweep and Graffiti Discover Day is September 21. Volunteers will meet at Washington Square, on Filbert, across from SS. Peter & Paul at 10 AM. The mornings are particularly rewarding for interacting with neighbors and tourists whose responses range from appreciation to amazement, and for the picnic and get-together at noon.

Come join the faithful — Billie Atlas and Pat Cady, N.I.C.E. members Dawne Bernhardt, Susan Calendar, Sara Gregory, Howard Wong and Joan Wood. Swell the ranks of the Nice People.

Tel Hi Neighborhood Center's New Community Organizer

This July, Gentle Blythe began as the community organizer at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, a position held by Dohra Ahmad for the past two years. Gentle has been working in education and community building programs in diverse urban communities for the past 7 years on both the east and west coasts. For the past 2 years she has been an education reform coordinator with public schools in the Bay Area, collaborating with parents, students, teachers, administrators and community residents to set school change goals and achieve them. Ms. Blythe attended Brown

University in Providence, Rhode Island where she founded an educational support program for teen moms, taught reading and writing skills to adults and youths, and directed the start-up of adult basic education at two neighborhood centers.

As community organizer, Gentle plans to assist neighborhood residents, merchants, and service providers with neighborhood development. This includes acting as a liaison to City departments, staffing a neighborhood coalition, coordinating the delivery of youth and family services, and developing ac-

tivities which bring people together. She has begun working with North Beach Place residents to implement quality improvements in collaboration with the Housing Authority HOPE VI initiative. Gentle hopes to continue with the apprenticeship program, the variety show, the Francisco mural and other projects which were initiated by Dohra. To share your ideas, concerns and/or questions, please call Gentle at 421-6443 x13.

Portpourri

by Bob Tibbits

Denise McCarthy Joins Port Commission

Reestablishing a tradition begun by Mayor Dianne Feinstein when she appointed the first woman to the Port Commission in 1983, Mayor Willie Brown selected Denise McCarthy to replace Commissioner Frank O'Neill whose term expired May 1st. Earlier this year when the venerable retired President of the ILWU, Jimmy Herman (who had already achieved virtually "landmark" status on the commission), was reappointed to replace THDer Anne Halsted, the Mayor said he needed a commissioner who understood the shipping industry to help steer the Port toward restoring its faltering maritime trade.

McCarthy, Executive Director of Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center on Lombard Street since 1981, brings several years' "maritime" experience to the commission as well as gender diversity to the panel. She and her husband regularly ply "Watah Bear," their 25-foot wooden sailboat, on San Francisco Bay. More important, McCarthy has served for many years on the Fisherman's Wharf Citizens Advisory Committee and was active on the Pier 45 Committee in opposition to a proposed hotel in the 1980s. More recently, she spent three years on the Waterfront Plan Advisory Board that formulated the Port's land use plan currently undergoing environmental review.

Waterfront Land Use Plan Drafted

Culminating over three years of study and evaluation by a 27-member advisory board, the Port of San Francisco recently released its volumi-

nous draft Waterfront Land Use Plan. It is now undergoing environmental review in the Planning Department and is expected to be ready for adoption in late fall. Mandated by Proposition H, this citizen-developed draft plan envisions new investment to stimulate maritime activity and encourage "water-oriented" uses, and to maximize public access to the waterfront and San Francisco Bay as prescribed by the McAteer-Petris Act of 1965. Since then, new development projects have been under final jurisdiction and oversight of the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

The draft Waterfront Land Use Plan allocates almost three-quarters of the Port's land for water-dependent activities including current and future maritime uses, fishing operations, recreational boating, ferry and water taxi services, excursion boats, a cruise ship terminal, berthing of historic ships, ceremonial or temporary berthing along the waterfront and maritime offices. The greater portion of Port property that has been set aside for future maritime expansion is located in the south and central waterfronts and around the Ferry Building.

In the *Northeast Waterfront Sub-area* at the foot of Telegraph Hill along the Embarcadero, Piers 15-17 (between Vallejo and Union Streets), 19-23 (Union and Filbert Streets, and 27-29 1/2 (Filbert and Chestnut Streets) have been designated as "transitional maritime facilities" no longer physically suitable for modern container ship moorage, but to be made available for future mixed use development, both maritime and commercial in nature.

In addition to traditional water-dependent activities and BCDC-mandated public access, the plan designated as acceptable land use such

activities as public assembly and entertainment museums, recreational enterprises (bike rentals), retail including promotion centers (Piers 15, 17, 27, 29 and 29 1/2), and accessory parking for customers and visitors.

Adjacent to these transitional maritime facilities, the draft plan identifies two so-called "Opportunity Areas" deemed to have high-revenue generating capacity for the Port from future development. The *Broadway-Pier 7 Mixed Use Opportunity Area* calls for commercial development on the four seawall lots inland from the Embarcadero. Acceptable land uses include artists' and designers' studios, assembly and entertainment activities, a hotel, museums, retail stores including restaurants, and recreational enterprises, plus community facilities as an accessory use.

The *Bay Street-Pier 31-35 Mixed Use Opportunity Area*, seawall lot 314 (presently occupied by a gas station and carwash) could be used for development of offices, a hotel, retail shops or restaurants and parking, according to the draft plan. In addition to traditional maritime and existing commercial activities, acceptable land uses on Piers 31 1/2, 33 and 35 would be for assembly and entertainment, museums, retail/restaurant and wholesale trade/promotion activities plus warehousing and offices as a continuing interim use. Parking, currently an accessory use on those piers, would also be permitted on Pier 31, which currently has warehousing and storage as an accessory use.

In the *Fisherman's Wharf Sub-area* new acceptable water-dependent land uses include water taxi docking at all piers (except the west side of Pier 45), increased recreational boating and water use opportunities at Pier

Continued on next page

Portpourri...

47, at 47A opposite Scoma's Restaurant and at the new Hyde Street Harbor. Public assembly and entertainment use will be expanded at several locations, museums made even more ubiquitous and visitor service centers permitted practically anywhere on the wharf. Even more retail/restaurant activities will be allowed at the new Hyde Street Harbor, both sides of Pier 45 and around the Pier 39 garage area as well as on seawall lot 313 which fronts the Embarcadero between Beach and North Point Streets.

Yet another *Mixed Use Opportunity Area* has been prescribed for the heart of Fisherman's Wharf running north of Jefferson Street from Powell to Hyde Street. This includes virtually the entire area south of Jefferson Street from Powell to Hyde. It excludes Piers 39-43, Sheds B and C on the west side of Pier 45D and the proposed new Hyde Street Harbor facilities.

The Port has published a handsome illustrated 210-page reference volume for public review that includes a narrative on the goal of the plan, an in-depth analysis of water-dependent activities, along with numerous charts and maps covering the specific uses and locations in thorough detail. Nothing as complete has ever before been compiled or presented as impressively in one book. Kudos to the report authors Anne Cook, Keri Kilstrom and Diane Oshima.

Anyone who cares about the future of San Francisco's waterfront should get a copy for \$10 by calling 274-0354. Copies of the conforming amendments to the City's General Plan and Planning Code are also available free of charge.

400 Trees Leaders Receive N.I.C.E.'s People Who Make a Difference Award

by Dawne Bernhardt

The successful completion of the 400 Trees Project was recognized by the Telegraph Hill Dwellers at the August dinner meeting where the N.I.C.E. People Who Make a Difference Award was presented to the project's three leaders, with thanks to over 230 volunteers and 100 property owners.

Julie Christensen led the project with eloquent presentations and a splendid brochure. She made countless persuasive calls on merchants and property owners to accept trees, donate funds or food. She tirelessly negotiated with donors and rallied volunteers; she collected, hauled and unloaded materials. On planting days she was first to arrive and last to leave, cleaning up and even loading her car with dirt to save for the next planting. As the project extended from 3 to 8 months, so did Julie's attention to detail, creativity and hard work. Her efforts continue as needs arise to tend to uncared-for or vandalized trees.

Joe Butler, long-time volunteer and Board member of Friends of the Urban Forest, secured over 70 tree locations working with private and governmental groups including SF Rec & Park and DPW. A veteran tree planter, Joe assisted in the placement of trees at North Beach Playground, Pioneer Park and the Filbert Steps. This true friend of trees is the chief volunteer at weekly watering sessions to maintain trees in public areas — hauling hoses and maneuvering slippery slopes to repair basins and stakes. Joe's boundless enthusiasm constantly encourages others.

Christopher Wand signed up quickly when Telegraph Hill Dwellers united with Friends of the Urban Forest to administer the project, and he became a pivotal volunteer. Chris personally secured approval for placing over 100 trees by taking on tough assignments: he worked his way through the school system bureaucracy, tackled hard-to-reach commercial landlords, and appealed to the Port Authority. Time after time he has won over the reluctant — coaxing, cajoling and charming. On his own, he spends countless hours maintaining street trees. He is a combination of vigilante and nurturer.

So, profound thanks to Julie the Guiding Light, to Joe the Guru, to Christopher the Green Thumb, and to the countless others they have inspired.



N.I.C.E. Award Winners Joe Butler, Julie Christensen and Christopher Wand taking a break during the final tree planting. Photo by Sara Gregory.

Tour Buses and Us

by Jerry Hurtado

Editor's note: After Jerry wrote this the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, at its August 5 meeting, approved a resolution urging the Department of Parking and Traffic to require tour buses to park at Pier 30, instead of on nearby neighborhood streets. We are very fortunate that the Board was sensitive and responsive to this issue, and we're grateful to Art Chang and Ray Dunaway for their hard work on this and other problems related to tour buses, which Jerry has described here.

San Francisco tops the list of places people like to visit. The City ranks high as a convention center. San Francisco's tourist industry is booming, but hand-in-hand with success comes the burgeoning tour bus industry. There seem to be more and more buses on our streets — all over San Francisco.

It is a growing problem in North Beach. Tour buses are having an impact on the small-in-scale roadways and back streets of North Beach. This part of town was built at the turn of the century when the horse and buggy reigned supreme. It is what gives it the old country feel. It was never designed for modern traffic.

Tour buses on our crowded streets are creating new levels of congestion. Buses that can dwarf a Greyhound Scenic Cruiser are driving the length of Grant Avenue or pass-

ing through the choke point on Stockton at Washington Square. They spew smoke, block traffic and take up parking.

Recently Bay Street residents rose up in arms over the City's proposal to earmark many blocks of street parking exclusively for tour buses; they were ejected from parking on Pier 45.

Art Chang, a resident of North Point Apartments and spokesman for the group led the charge. Night employees at Safeway, MUNI and United Airlines, likewise upset with the potential loss of parking, joined in.

Residents of the North Point Apartments would be impacted beyond the loss of parking. Anyone who has spent time around diesel engines knows how the exhaust will choke you up, inflame the sinuses and such. Not to mention the noise. With a twinkle in his eye, Chang asks, "Have you ever known a bus driver to turn off his engine while waiting?" Indeed, the preferred modus operandi with tour bus drivers is to leave their engines idle. This problem with the buses is common to North Beach as a whole.

Marsha Garland, who lives on Lombard, pointed out that they leave their engines running in her neighborhood too, while passengers take pictures of the crookedest street — a favorite tourist attraction. Ditto for Coit Tower.

Billie Atlas resides at the foot of Coit Tower. She confirms that tour buses cause problems there as well. Atlas just returned from New York, where they have strict tour bus regulations. "They enforce them," she proclaims, "they're strict, but they

control the problem. Why can't we do the same?"

Ray Dunaway, who lives on Francisco near Powell, says he can't open his kitchen window because of diesel fumes from idling buses. As Dunaway puts it, "Diesel fumes can really foul the bouquet of a good cabernet."

Dunaway has been pushing a plan before the San Francisco Parking and Traffic Commission. The Commission has held frequent hearings on the issue of tour buses. Some of these hearings have led to restrictions on tour buses in the Marina and Sea Cliff neighborhoods. Dunaway's plan would restrict tour buses from certain sections of North Beach to include Washington Square, Coit Tower and links through the neighborhood toward Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39.

On upper Montgomery, probably the last place a tour bus should go, tour buses go! Dennis Knebel, who lives on the corner of Montgomery and Union, is tired of the late night action, "Every time one of them turns around, it creates havoc with the flow of traffic up Union Street. I am really fed up with it. I have taken to talking to some of these drivers. Their companies tell them to go there. So that's what we're dealing with — large companies in the tourist trade who don't give a damn about the people that live here."

Jeff Pollack, proprietor of the two landmark restaurants on upper Montgomery, Dalla Torre and Julius Castle, indicated at a recent THD Parking & Traffic Committee meet-

Continued on next page

ing that he felt tour buses should be restricted from upper Montgomery.

Some argue that anybody who lives here has got to buy into the big city atmosphere of crowded and noisy streets where pretty much anything goes. And buses are part of it.

Well, guess what? The neighbors here are generally lenient and tolerant and forgiving. In fact most have a sense of humor and can laugh at many of the situations occurring here. Take the Great American Stage that got stuck at the intersection of Kearny and Vallejo one Sunday afternoon. In order to get there, the driver had to travel up Vallejo from Grant. Vallejo is one-way going in the opposite direction. Stuck, forty or so Russian tourists disembarked. They made good use of their time picnicking while the driver called for an industrial-size tow truck to come and extricate him. Some neighbors helped with traffic control until the bus was freed and the merry travelers bid them "dos-vedaniya."

The only harm done was to block people from moving their cars for a couple of hours. It was a small episode in the life of a big city, but there are many episodes like this in North Beach every day. How much inconvenience should a community have to endure?

At some point the tourist industry and the city officials who seem to favor them ought to realize that people who live here have rights too. A night of unbroken sleep should not be considered a luxury. We should be able to park on the streets where we live. We should be able to drive to and from our homes without being impeded by some

machine too large for the space. And we should be able to open our windows without having to breathe diesel fumes from idling buses.

Both Ray Dunaway's plan to restrict tour buses in North Beach and Art Chang's fight to keep public parking for the public are in one stage or another in the hearing process before the Parking & Traffic Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

In Dunaway's case, the neighborhood, the City and the tour bus industry have been trying to work on a voluntary basis to alleviate the problem for over a year. Unfortunately it seems not to be working, and restrictions may still be called for.

Chang, on the other hand, got the City to reduce somewhat the total amount of parking that will be avail-

able for buses only. In addition, the City promises strict enforcement of engine shut down within five minutes after any bus is parked, and the buses are restricted to two hours of parking.

About controlling tour buses in North Beach, there are many people involved in this neighborhood preservation effort, but Art Chang and Ray Dunaway warrant special mention because they stepped forth to take this issue "by the horns." Once anybody does that they are obligated to see it through. From my own experience I know that projects like this can become protracted, often lasting for two to three years or more. So while each story is interesting, it's even more interesting when you get to know of the men and women who step forward to make it happen.



Merry travelers bid "Dosvedaniya!" Photo by Jerry Hurtado.

Hill Gardens: Alta Street

by Patricia Cady

Summertime bounty is picked daily from the Marshalls' Alta Street garden where a pair of mockingbirds raised a family of three last spring. Sounds of close-by traffic around Coit Tower are absorbed by the geology between there and here. Except for birdsong and the buzz of industrious bees it is perfectly quiet in the garden. Now in its second summer, it thrives near the heart of a busy tourist area.

The transformation of this one-tenth-acre site from a rocky sandy lot to an abundant city garden is as dramatic as the phenomenon of caterpillar to butterfly. The color-patch of land is owned by neighbors Nan and Nate Roth who have loaned it to the Marshalls to use as a "farm" where Richard Marshall and Carolyn Baulsier cultivate French string beans, squash, beets, lettuce, seven varieties of tomatoes, and many different flowers and herbs.

Richard Marshall, co-chair of THD's Planning and Zoning Com-

mittee, lives next door to the garden in a house that had been damaged by fire. An architect, he remodeled the house. A gardener, he constructed on the rocky hill behind the house three terraces of prize-winning rose bushes. Framed by floor-to-ceiling glass, the rose garden appears to "hang" like a tapestry; it is the centerpiece of the home.

Where the garden is, an old house burned years ago. What was left was carted away. Rocks emerged from the dry land baked hard by decades of sun and wind. Evidence of the transformation remains. Marshall installed drip irrigation and brought in topsoil, not for the entire site, but to fulfill a specific plan for planting vegetables here, flowers there. Surrounding the cultivated areas, in dramatic contrast with them, the original scrape of clay lies undisturbed to present a "before" picture which reminds us that there is no greater dynamic than a seed alive in soil.



*Ripe vegetables for the dinner table. Fresh flowers await arrangement into vases.
Photo by Richard Marshall.*

Colorful Plans

by Maud Hallin

The Sunday Afternoon Watercolor Society will meet at Pioneer Park and paint there on Sunday, October 6. For a donation of \$25 wannabe watercolorists may bring their paintboxes and join them at the park, followed by a cocktail party in a lovely neighborhood garden.

December 3 through 21, the art works will be on display at the Evolving Space Gallery located at 536 Pacific Avenue (open Tuesdays-Fridays 11 AM-6 PM, Saturdays noon to 5). They will be auctioned at a reception in the gallery on Wednesday, December 4, along with historic designs, sketches and drawings related to the restoration of Pioneer Park. Following the auction all works will go on sale at prices for every pocketbook.

For details on both events call 398-5112. Make your donation check payable to The Telegraph Hill Fund of the San Francisco Foundation, with a notation for the "Pioneer Park Project" and send c/o the project to 1308 Montgomery, #1, SF, CA 94133.

THD Members & Semaphore Readers

Please consider placing a low-cost display or calling card ad with us. Contact Steve Hord, Ad Manager, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133; or call 781-1117.

A "Magic Carpet" for North Beach

by Fran Valesco

Telegraph Hill residents probably remember the graffiti-covered mural at Francisco Middle School. If you do, you know how badly it needed to be restored. In an exciting collaboration between the school and Tel Hi, Francisco students are learning about restoration, and also how to create a new mural. This two-part project was conceived by Tel Hi's Dohra Ahmad, Francisco Middle School's Bill Hack, and myself. To our delight, we were awarded an initial grant from the Neighborhood Beautification and Graffiti Clean-Up Fund, and a small additional grant from Levi-Strauss.

In March we started to involve a new generation of Francisco students. Creating a new mural allowed them to be involved in the artwork from the earliest stages and gain practical understanding of how the work is done. As the wall progressed, the volunteers blossomed and the mural evolved to become a lively and colorful representation of the students' ideas.

The composition is a large carpet floating to the sky. I like the symbolism of weaving together diverse cultures and a patchwork of icons important to the participants. The magic carpet can also take you to many wondrous places. We will have an exciting dedication of the mural at Francisco School this fall. Hope to see all of you then. For information on volunteering, donations, or the dedication, please call Gentle Blythe at Tel Hi at 421-6443 x13.

I'm happy to be working in North Beach again, having completed the "Fish" mural at the North Beach swimming pool in 1987.

Editor's note: San Francisco artist Frances Valesco has painted 30 murals at local schools, community centers and public buildings since coming here from Los Angeles in 1976. A UCLA Art major, Frances also has a graduate degree in Printmaking from Long Beach State University. She has taught design, drawing, printmaking and textiles at the Academy of Art College and the San Francisco Art Institute.



Fran Valesco works on the new mural at Francisco School. Photo by Billie Atlas.

Good Idea. It's late. You are tired and hungry, fed up with traffic. All that stands between you and your pair of slippers and a comforting beverage is a place to park your car, normally the task of Hercules, and he's welcome to it. Tonight you drive directly to 1636 Powell Street where you pick up a valet who will accompany you home. The valet will drive your car back to the garage and park it in a warm, secure, clean stall.

Pick up the phone to reverse the process. When you need to drive once again, call the garage and order your car. Look out the window at the appointed time. Behold, a valet has brought it to your door. Drive this nice fellow back to the garage then *carpe diem* as you wish. Should this *diem* end past midnight (weekdays) or 1 AM (weekends), you have a key you can use to open the garage and park the car yourself.

In addition to other services available at his Powell Street Garage: Valet parking for Washington Square Bar & Grill and Rose Pistola's, public parking and monthly self-parking, Don McLarty has recently added the above-described home valet service, available from no one else in a neighborhood more than ready for it, where SFPD estimates on-street parking at nearly 120%. The errant 20% sleep fitfully and are sighted in their cars at daybreak, coats thrown over pajamas, slipping into legal spaces a heartbeat ahead of the law.

The service costs about a hundred dollars a week which will make sense to owners (and insurers) of luxury cars. Also to A-stickerless visitors who wish to actually spend some time with you. And to business folks whether they can, or can't, expense the cost, who wish to buy back ever-expanding slices of precious life trying out parking mantras and driving around and around.

The Beat Culture and the New America 1950-1965

by Arthur Chang

Editor's note: H.A.L.O. Committee Chair Arthur Chang reports that the above exhibit will be at the M.H. de Young Museum from October 5 to December 29. He researched the subject at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City where the exhibit was assembled. Arthur notes that the exhibit catalog by Whitney Director David Ross includes background information which is valuable in placing the Beat culture in an historical perspective, and particularly interesting to the North Beach community and the San Francisco Art Institute (where so many west coast abstract artists studied and worked during the '50s and '60s). Portions of Arthur's extensive research on the subject appear here. To review his complete manuscript, call him at 331-9595 x733.

To add to your understanding of the culture, visit the North Beach Library which contains an excellent collection of Beat art donated by Jane Winslow.

The exhibit at the de Young will cover the works of many "Beat" personalities including the extraordinary and monumental painting (it weighs over a ton) "The Rose" by Jay DeFeo. She taught at the Art Institute and worked on "The Rose" for more than five years. It was still unfinished when she and her husband Wally Hendrick (also a painter

— his work appears at the exhibit) were evicted from the house where they lived with Michael McClure, Joan Brown and other artists. A window was knocked out and a crane plucked the piece from the building. 25 years later the Art Institute restored it and packed it for shipment to the Whitney exhibit.

According to Steven Watson who authored *The Birth of the Beat Generation* as a companion piece to the catalog: "By the strictest definition, the Beat Generation consists of only William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Neal Cassidy and Herbert Huncke, with slightly later additions of Gregory Corso and Peter Orlovsky." Watson believes with W.E.B. DeBois that "the history of the world is the history not of individuals, but of groups."

By Watson's definition the principal "Beats" were from the east coast and received their university educations there. But it was San Francisco where the Beat spirit, Beat life, and Beat culture were nurtured and allowed to flourish. North Beach was the locus of their culture, tolerant of the bohemian lifestyle and, earlier, the raucous Barbary Coast. The historian Simon Schama wrote in *Landscape and Memory* that certain landscapes have social memory and those who inhabit them draw on the "archives of memory."

North Beach is rich in landmarks of "Beat" memory: City Lights Bookstore; Vesuvio's; Henri Lenoir's first bar (now Spec's); 576 Green, formerly The Cellar — the famous club featuring jazz and regular poetry readings by Rexroth and Ferlinghetti; 1398 Grant Avenue, a bohemian hangout since the '40s — its "Blabbermouth Nights" provided a social forum and featured poetry readings; 1010 Montgomery was Allen Ginsberg's home when he wrote *Howl*.

When the exhibit opens, North Beachers, Hill Dwellers and the San Francisco Art Institute should celebrate the occasion. Ella King Torrey, President of the Art Institute, has noted that on this centennial anniversary of the Art Institute the opening of "Beat Culture and the New America" should not go unnoticed, but needs proper attention and celebration by all of us in North Beach. We agree.

Herb...

by Patricia Cady

Some of us trekked down Telegraph Hill to the Embarcadero to join the party the City put on to dedicate Herb Caen Way in June. The sign at the Greenwich Street stairs still warns that pedestrians are slippery when wet, as you once reported, but it was a beautiful day.

Milo Hoadley was the 19th-century City Engineer who proposed dynamiting Telegraph Hill, and all the other hills in San Francisco, to level the city and create a proper grid of streets named A-B-C, and 1-2-3 and so forth, not unlike Sacramento. A flat city would be better for business, Hoadley insisted in a spirit which abides today in others hoping to sell the group soul on redevelopment schemes that would gradually eliminate reasons for living and visiting here. Thanks for being a key runner in the one-generation-to-the-next race to prevent San Francisco from "progressing" into neighborhoods turned theme parks surrounded by high-rise garages.

In a changing world we cling to values we can prize, and no other writer expresses what we prize better than you. We watch the fog transform the just and the unjust — the early master craftsmen's second-nature expressions of beauty and captured light, contrasted with dreary facades which perfectly mirror changed hearts and minds. We sense our vulnerability to the next quake with the knowledge that God hates ugly.

"Life is a spell so exquisite that everything conspires to break it," Emily Dickinson said. Until the sixties we lived in a small town of unlocked doors and a skyline as innocent as we were. People played cards in each other's living rooms and laughed a lot more than we seem to now as we silently acquire software

skills in buildings infested by surveillance. I still believe that crimes are committed by people who drive in from Fresno and park illegally.

The topic of crime stirs those who feel that pigeons appropriately dwell in the City of St. Francis. It's said that when Francis preached, birds fell respectfully silent and listened. Silencing the California Mission bells of North Beach's St. Francis of Assisi church was unimaginable to the thousands who paraded through the City to dedicate this first church built for Gold Rushers and the entrepreneurs who packed it. Now abandoned to homeless, the landmark declines for the profit of those either waiting to tear it down, or willing to let it live — which shall it be? Mobilize your spies!

We liked seeing you in the neighborhood, when you lived here. Women tried to catch your eye, usually successfully. If your lovely wife hasn't explained why you are so attractive to women, I shall tell you that it is because you like them and have not squandered precious energy trying to conceal this virtue. You exemplify the confident old-world man for whom the new woman now prays. No aftershave or haircut or automobile in the world attracts a woman more than a certain look in a good man's eye that says she is seen and not found wanting.

A recent advertisement for a charreuse jacket modeled by a bald woman made me think about the last generation's beautiful women whose black and white photos in the newspapers set impossible standards for young females. They pinned gardenias to fur coats and swept their long hair up with combs. Years ago I saw you one evening at The Mark with just such a glamorous woman. You were whispering something to her that made her smile, and I wished I were she. You haven't changed a day, Herb. Blessings...

It's (Play) Tourist Time!

by June Fraps

With the glorious weather that comes with the fall, it's time to play tourist in your hometown. There's plenty to do.

City Guide offers an expanded fall neighborhood walk schedule in October:

The Telegraph Hill hike departs from the Marconi statue at 5:30 PM on two Thursdays — October 3 and October 17.

A Literary Tour of North Beach departs from the City Lights Bookstore at noon on two Saturdays — October 12 and October 26. See related articles in this issue: "The Beat Culture and the New America 1950-1965" and "Beat Programs at the Library."

The year-round North Beach Walk departs from the steps of SS. Peter & Paul church at 10 AM every Saturday.

Explore other parts of the city. For descriptions and dates of tours, pick up the *City Guide* October schedule at the North Beach Library.

Friends of the Urban Forest, the group that supplied the know-how for our recent 400 Trees project, gives you a chance to see what they've done in other neighborhoods. FUF offers 2-hour walks starting at 10 AM on two Saturdays: September 28 (St. Francis Wood) and October 26 (Buena Vista Heights). For details call 543-5000.

Beat Programs at the Library

by Gardner Haskell, North Beach Librarian

"Beat Culture and the New America: 1950-1965" is the title of the exhibition that will appear at the M.H. de Young Museum beginning October 5th through December 29th, 1996.

The following Beat-related programs will be held at the North Beach Library, 2000 Mason Street (at Columbus). Call (415) 274-0270 for information or details.

Beat Era Art. Writer and independent curator Susan Landauer (author of *San Francisco School of Abstract Expressionism*) will discuss Beat-era art with poet, critic and KPFA radio personality Jack Foley, Adelle Foley, and Beat-era photographer James O. Mitchell. Mr. Foley and Mr. Mitchell will also sign copies of their book about

the famous Beat "Batman Art Gallery." October 8 at 7 PM.

Beat Generation on Record. Spontaneous Bop Prosody, Tape experiments, Jazz Poetry. Join Beat scholar and publisher Stephen Ronan, author of *Disks of the Gone World*, for an examination of the recordings of Beat writers. Formerly an editor at City Lights Books, and associate producer for Rhino records, Mr. Ronan has lectured on the Beats at N.Y.U. October 15 at 7 PM.

Beat Biography Nite. Kerouac, Kaufman and Ferlinghetti — their lives and works — will be discussed by their biographers. Mel Clay, author of *Jazz, Jail and God*, the biography of Bob Kaufman; Gerald Nicosia, the author of *Memory Babe*:

a Critical Biography of Jack Kerouac; and Neeli Cherkovski who wrote *Whitman's Wild Children*, a bio of ten Beat writers, will lecture and answer questions. October 22 at 7 PM.

Be there or be square.

North Beach Library was extremely grateful to receive a gift of \$100 from Mia Morrill, given to her by the Telegraph Hill Dwellers in appreciation for her term as president. At the suggestion of Children's Librarian Jensa Woo, Mrs. Morrill selected seven award-winning children's book titles, which have been purchased and added to the library's collection.

A Library for Any and Every Season

by Jensa Woo, North Beach Children's Librarian

Come to the library this autumn and "fall" into a world of learning! In addition to having a core collection of books and other resources, the library presents programs of interest particularly to kids and families. Upcoming programs include:

- "A Musical Afternoon with Susan Pena," featuring folk music in Spanish and English on Wednesday, September 25 at 3:45 PM. This program is part of San Francisco Public Library's city-wide "Latino-Hispanic Heritage

Celebration" (suitable for ages 5 and older.).

- "A Halloween Craft Program" (for kids ages 6 and older) will be held on Thursday, October 24 at 3:30 PM. Come and cut-and-paste to your heart's content!
- "Scary Halloween Stories," told by storyteller Carolyn Power, promises to be a thriller! Join us on Wednesday, October 30 at 3:45 PM (suitable for ages 6 and older).

Contact our staff to find out more about these and additional programs coming this fall to the library. And don't forget, there are weekly storytime programs or film programs for infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers.

The North Beach Library is located at 2000 Mason (corner of Columbus), phone: 274-0270.



The Pioneer Park Project at Coit Tower Continuing the Tradition

by Howard Wong and the Pioneer Park Project Team



Throughout the history of Telegraph Hill and San Francisco, successive generations of community efforts and cumulative achievements have strengthened our neighborhood. The many participants in the Pioneer Park Project at Coit Tower are continuing the tradition, completing the pedestrian fabric envisioned in the original Coit Tower design of 1933, enhancing open space/natural habitats, providing wheelchair access to the WPA murals and improving erosion control, public safety and the basic character of the Hill. The Pioneer Park Project Team, which welcomes a diversity of volunteers, has approached a variety of tasks with spirited enthusiasm, cohesive teamwork and celebration.

Since 1954, THD has enhanced and preserved the Hill's quality of life. Not surprisingly, the organization's by-laws institutionalizes its purpose "to perpetuate the historical traditions of the Hill's place in San Francisco history; to insure Telegraph Hill's constructive participation in the development of our city..." The Pioneer Park Project, in resurrecting the urban masterplans of the past, is now following in the footsteps of history. Like today's volunteers, past generations have contributed to tree planting, height limits, zoning controls, park improvements and utility line/traffic controls. In 1956, THD members preserved the Hill's scale by blocking a "redevelopment" project with high-rise apartments.

In the 1960s, an immense building development, surrounding a portion of the Hill, was fended off through legal action. In 1966, THD preserved Washington Square by securing a Mayoral veto of an underground parking garage. Through the present day, the efforts of residents, as well as friends from afar, have established Telegraph Hill as one of the most beautiful communities in the world.

The tradition of community involvement goes even farther back in history. In 1905, Dr. Dorothea Moore of San Francisco wrote of "The Saving of Telegraph Hill" from quarry operators, who were digging away the Hills' east face. In all, the quarrying at the Filbert Street steps area spanned a twenty-year time frame. Not until after 1915, with persistent public outcry, occasional barrages of rocks from irate Irish and Italian Hill dwellers, mob scenes and shootings, did the City end all blasting and quarrying, saving the Hill.

And the tradition of art and architecture continues. The Hill has an enduring heritage of artists, writers, poets, Beatniks, architects, designers and well-heeled devotees of art and literature. In 1929, Lillie Hitchcock Coit's bequest "to add to the beauty of the city I have always loved," led to the construction of Coit Tower in 1933. The master architect was Arthur Brown Jr., who designed City Hall and the Opera House. The project architect, Henry

T. Howard, was the son of renowned UC Berkeley architect John Galen Howard. Arthur Brown Jr. commissioned sculptor Robert B. Howard (brother of Henry T. Howard) to create a cast stone high relief plaque four feet in diameter of the phoenix bird (symbol of San Francisco's many "rebirths" after several widespread fires) to adorn the Tower's entrance. John Langley Howard, brother of Henry and Robert, was one of the twenty-five significant fresco artists commissioned by the Public Works of Art Project, including Victor Arnautoff, Edith Hamlin, Lucien Labaudt, Ralph Stackpole and Bernard Baruch Zakheim.

Presently, a community team of architects, landscape architects, design professionals, community activists, naturalists and City staff have completed a masterplan for improvements to Pioneer Park at Coit Tower. Integrating the unbuilt concepts of Arthur Brown Jr.'s original design, the perceptible circulation paths of people in the last 33 years and the natural topography, new stairs and paths are planned to facilitate pedestrian access and improve public safety throughout the park. There is also envisioned improvements to the terrace area south of the Tower, fostering of art/architectural elements, surveys of existing plant, bird and insect communities in order to record and augment them, as well as providing new habitat and erosion control with California native plants.

Continued on next page

Pioneer Park...

Continued from previous page

Progress in design, fundraising and field work has been inspiring. and the Team members have enjoyed the camaraderie, achievements, food and wine. But there is still much to do. If you are interested in volunteering or providing support, consider the following areas of special need:

Fundraising

Corporations and foundations like Bank of America, Bechtel, Walgreens, 1st Nationwide and US Leasing often contribute if their employees are involved in a project.

If the company you work for contributes to community projects like ours, please let us know. Personal contacts with key people in corporate or funding foundations would be most valuable.

Feel free to provide ideas and information to Jane Winslow, 421-5052.

Public Relations

The Project is in great need of a team interested in public relations and publicity. This may include professionals or individuals with writing skills who can assist in various media needs.

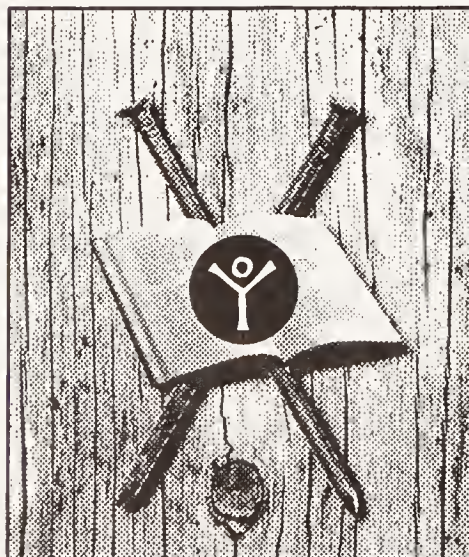
Feel free to give your name and phone number to Dawne Bernhardt, 982-3314.

Work Parties

Weekend tree watering teams are needed to nurture 43 trees around Pioneer Park on upper Greenwich and Filbert Steps.

Feel free to give your name and phone number to Sara Gregory, 391-9919.

The San Francisco Foundation has established a Telegraph Hill Fund to accept tax-deductible contributions for the Pioneer Park Project at Coit Tower. Donation checks should be made payable to the Telegraph Hill Fund of the San Francisco Foundation, with a notation for the "Pioneer Park Project" and sent c/o 1308 Montgomery, #1, SF, CA 94133. Other interested volunteers may contact the Project by calling (415) 398-5112, or any committee chairs/members.



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The Semaphore's Good Neighbor Award Goes to Christopher Wand

by Julie Christensen



Christopher was nominated for the award by Julie Christensen who provided this photo of Chris and the following profile.

North Beach is ripe with pivotal characters. We may not always recognize the person, or connect the person with the accomplishment. But they toil away anyway, improving our corner of the world and knitting the fabric of our neighborhood: the gregarious café owner, the wizened poet, the skeptical author, the determined gardener, the tireless volunteer, the astute negotiator. Some, like Grace Marchant and Jack Early and Bob and Nancy Katz, are publicly acknowledged with signs, memorials, dedications. Others must rely on our inadequate gratitude and imperfect memory. But many work away quietly without attracting much attention at all. We often notice their handiwork without being cognizant of its source, or even that it has a source. A street becomes tidier, a garden sprouts up, a contribution comes into the neighborhood center, a traffic snarl is resolved, an old building is saved — and we all benefit because someone else cared.

One of the blessings of the 400 Trees Project was the opportunity to learn about and meet many of our benefactors. And I could — and have — gone on and on about the numbers who contributed directly to the project. But a few people were distinguished by extraordinary efforts, standing out even in our crowd of exceptionally dedicated and generous volunteers. Of all of these, Christopher Wand was singularly fundamental in the success of the project. I am pleased to have this chance to nudge him into the spotlight.

Christopher is a native San Franciscan and a quintessential North Beacher. He was born, in the neighborhood, of an artist mother and a folk musician father who courted at Vesuvio. He spent his infancy bouncing on the counters of Trieste and Tosca. He matured from toddling down Grant Avenue, to Russian Hill paper routes, to adolescence, and took an early interest in adding street trees to the neighborhood. Christopher planted his own, cajoled neighbors into following suit, then spent weekends and afternoons tending his disjointed garden. The need for larger quarters eventually lured him from the neighborhood, but he kept a post box here to maintain his address. And he returned faithfully to care for his trees.

When the 400 Trees project got underway, many people came (or were pushed) forward to offer assistance. Through Maud Hallin and Phyllis Jewell Wand, Christopher's wife, we met Christopher. Through concept, research, persuasion, and dogged persistence, he was responsible for over

100 of the 355 trees planted during the project. He unloaded trees and served as a planting leader for nearly every planting. He has returned repeatedly to the new sites, adjusting stakes, adding protective screens, trimming damaged branches, and watering, watering, watering.

Our young trees are children and adolescents, yanked from the snug familiarity of their leafy nurseries and plunked down in the windy, barren, dusty concrete of the North Beach sidewalks. Christopher Wand is their father, nursemaid and guardian angel. His determination and diligence has increased our overall success rate, improving the future for some trees and making the difference, literally, between life and death for others. He was runner-up for the Lowell Award (given to outstanding urban gardeners) this year and feted at a banquet held by Friends of the Urban Forest.

Christopher works in various areas of communications — writing and giving tours and lectures. I often thought there would be a mutual benefit in marrying his love of and aptitude for planting with his ability to organize and motivate. But for the moment, he sacrifices income and leisure to remain faithful to his project.

Christopher and his wife welcomed a baby boy into the world shortly after our last planting. The first planting occurred nine months earlier, and it doesn't take much math to compute how closely Baby Christopher's gestation matches our own. Quite a year, Christopher! I hope your son and trees grow well. Thanks from all of us.

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Reporter's Notebook

by Clyde Steiner

Sounds of the Saints-Go-Marching-In surround us long before we are face to face with the mouth of the tube.

The tuba, the drum, and the other instruments that make up the Jambox Brass Marching Band are submerged in the bodies that fill Grant Avenue during the North Beach Festival. Their sweet-jazz sound is not.

A bit of New Orleans in San Francisco sure is welcome. As is the bit of nostalgia for the caressing breezes of that sub-tropical city. We sure could have used them in our THD booth as the ice winds of June curled around us.

Hearty souls, we THDers, smiling despite the cold, behind the table in our brand-new booth. Even if you didn't see the booth, you still would be proud of our public showing. A pristine white canopied contraption set in front of Caffè Trieste, in a space where you might normally dodge a Harley or two.

In this prominent spot, we were face to face with hundreds of street party people in addition to the tuba player.

Curious glances from the 20-somethings who populate the festival. Shy requests from little girls who had heard about Howard Wong's miniature Coit Tower cutout. We gave away lots of them.

The 20-somethings grabbed on to another, now current, musical nostalgia as the sounds of Benny Goodman brought them jitter-bugging in a cleared space a hundred feet from us.

Of course we gave out membership flyers to newcomers and comforted those poor souls who had been forced by circumstance to abandon this Hill for other less blessed parts of the City. At least they could return for the Festival and a little conversation. We signed up some new faces for THD projects to keep the Hill the special place we claim it to be.

At the end of the day, we stuck our tent, using four people and a couple of kibbitzers to do the work, though the instructions say it can be done by one person working alone. It was just another example of THD getting people to work together for a common goal.

North Beach Festival: Good-sized crowds braved cold gray windy summer weather. Appropriately turtlenecked, a few of THD's booth volunteers are pictured below.



Norma and Art Peterson, Billie Atlas and Howard Wong stand poised to recruit new members. Photo by June Fraps.



At her post in the background, Joan Wood persuasively represented the Pioneer Park Project. Note the plants donated by Rod Freebairn-Smith to spice up the booth. Photo by John Coyle.

THD Committees Need You

You can make a difference! Join one of THD's committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Crime Prevention. Pat Lorentzen, 781-0456. Organizes S.A.F.E. neighborhood watch groups and works with Police Department on local crime problems. Participates in Police Community Relations Committee.

H.A.L.O. Art Chang, 331-9595 x733. Focuses on the History, Art, Landmarks and Organizations that tell, show, demonstrate, and create the story of our Telegraph Hill neighborhood.

Hills Angels. Mia Morill, 982-4850. Getting families together for fun with their children and to work on projects to improve our environment on Telegraph Hill.

N.I.C.E. Dawne Bernhardt, 982-3314. Creates neighborhood projects that Improve, Conserve, Enhance the Hill. Work parties plant, clean, beautify. THD N.I.C.E. Awards recognize "People Who Make a Difference."

N.E.R.T. June Fraps, 392-1187. Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

Neighborhood Liaison. Sue Cauthen, 391-0737. Represents THD at Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, a city-wide organization that meets monthly to interact with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

Parking and Transportation. Paul Switzer, 788-8667. Represents THD residents before City agencies on traffic control, curb markings and MUNI service, cooperating with other neighborhood groups.

Pioneer Park Improvement Project. Howard Wong, 982-5055. Its goal is to increase useability of the Park's open space and to improve accessibility and safety through planning, work parties and fund-raising.

Planning and Zoning. Jim Valenti, 398-0076; Dick Marshall, 885-5128. Assists neighbors with zoning issues and Discretionary Reviews; represents THD positions before the Planning Commission and works with developers and the City to protect neighborhood character.

Waterfront/Embarcadero. Bob Tibbits, 986-7227. Monitors new development projects for commercial and recreational activities as they are processed by the Port Commission, Planning Department and SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Currently reviewing EIRs for the waterfront landuse plan and the Hyde Street fishing harbor projects.

Collectible Books

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Steve Hord at 781-1117

STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget. Maud Hallin, 781-3761. As prescribed in By-Laws for Treasurer.

Membership. As prescribed in By-Laws for Financial Secretary.

Program. Ken Scudder and Kellin Defiel, 397-8821. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions; organizes annual picnic.

Semaphore. Pat Cady, 397-2175. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

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HELP WANTED

Unsticking or lock-picking the drawers of a file cabinet donated to Archivist-Historian Rhoda Robinson for storing our THD files. Handyman types and people who love challenges ought to call Rhoda at 781-5221. The successful person's name will be forever enshrined in THD's Hero Log. Thanks!

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THD CALENDAR

First Saturday Stair & Garden Work Parties. To volunteer or for more information call June Fraps at 392-1187.

N.I.C.E. Committee meets 1st Tuesday of each month. 982-3314.

Parking & Traffic Committee meets every second Saturday at 11 AM at The Gathering Caffe, 1326 Grant Avenue.

The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods meets every third Tuesday. Call Sue Cauthen at 391-0737.